

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method for producing hollow fiber membrane-containing filters including a filter housing having a first portion and a second portion and including a first end and a second end, said method comprising

laying a plurality of said hollow fibers in said first portion of said filter housing to form a bundle of said hollow fibers,

forming said first and second portions of said filter housing into said filter housing,

connecting said plurality of hollow fibers together and to said filter housing and simultaneously sealing said first and second portions of said filter housing together by applying a potting compound substantially along the entire length of said filter housing thereto to provide both a closed-sealed housing and a sealed plurality of hollow fibers prior to cutting said ends of said hollow fibers, and

subsequently cutting said ends of said hollow fibers at said at least one of said first and second ends of said closed housing whereby said plurality of hollow fibers include open ends.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 including sealing terminal end portions to said first and second ends of said filter housing so as to cover said ends of said hollow fiber bundle.

3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said laying of said plurality of said hollow fibers in said first portion of said filter housing comprises mounting a plurality of said first portions of said filter housing on a rotary winding wheel, continuously feeding said hollow fibers to said plurality of first portions of said filter housing as said rotary winding wheel is rotated whereby said hollow fibers are laid serially in said plurality of first portions of said filter housings, and

severing said hollow fibers between said plurality of filter housings.

4. (original) The method of claim 3 including severing said hollow fibers between said plurality of filter housings after said sealing of said first and second portions of said filter housing together.

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said first and second portions of said filter housing are flexibly connected to each other, and wherein said forming of said first and second portions of said filter housing together includes swinging said first and second portions together.

6. (original) The method of claim 5 wherein said first and second portions of said filter housing are flexibly connected to each other by means of a film hinge.

7. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said first and second portions of said filter housing are each half shell shaped, whereby said filter housing is tubular.

8. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein said sealing of said terminal end portions to said first and second ends of said filter housing comprises a sealing method selected from the group consisting of gluing, welding and screwing.

9. (original) The method of claim 1 including clamping said first and second portions of said filter housing together prior to said sealing of said first and second portions of said filter housing together.

10. (currently amended) A hollow filter membrane-containing filter comprising a tubular filter and a filter housing having a first portion and a second portion and including a first end and a second end, a bundle of hollow fibers disposed substantially parallel to each other within said filter housing, said first and second portions of said filter housing comprising half shell shapes, and potting compound connecting together said bundle of said hollow fibers at said

first end of said tubular filter housing, connecting said bundle of hollow fibers to said filter housing, and connecting said first and second portions of said filter housing together substantially along the entire length of said filter housing.

11. (previously presented) The hollow filter membrane containing filter of claim 10 including a flexible connector connecting said first and second portions of said filter housing together.

12. (original) The hollow fiber membrane containing filter of claim 11 wherein said flexible connector comprises a film hinge.

13. (previously presented) The hollow fiber membrane containing filter of claim 10 including clamping members for connecting said first and second portions of said filter housing together.

14. (original) A hollow fiber membrane containing filter of claim 10 including a potting aperture for said potting compound accessible after said first and second portions of said filter housing are connected together.